

Notice of Allowability**Application No.**

09/685,078

Examiner

MICHAEL THOMPSON

Applicant(s)

BENNETT ET AL.

Art Unit

3629

- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address-

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 03-09-2011.
2. ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on ____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.
3. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6, 28-33, 49-52, 58 and 66-68.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 20110909
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 101206
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.

/Michael M Thompson/
Examiner, Art Unit 3629

/Jamisie A Plucinski/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3629

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 03-09-2011 has been entered.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Marilyn Khorsandi on July 30, 2012.

The application has been amended as follows:

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A server-based shipping management computer system, said server-based shipping management computer system comprising at least one server computer device, wherein said server-based shipping management computer system is programmed to:

receive from a particular user client computer device of a plurality of user client computer devices, a request input by a user for an electronic mail delivery notification service by a carrier system for shipping a particular parcel and an input by the user of parcel specifications for the particular parcel;

for each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers, determine whether the respective carrier would provide electronic mail delivery notification for shipping the particular parcel according to the request; and

for each respective carrier of the plurality of carriers that would provide electronic mail delivery notification for shipping the particular parcel according to the request, display to a display device configured for communication with the particular user client computer device of the user, as to the particular parcel, a simultaneous interactive graphic identification of a corresponding shipping charge for each delivery service offered by the respective carrier to ship the particular parcel according to the parcel shipping specifications, said simultaneous interactive graphic identification displayable on a single display screen, said simultaneous interactive graphic identification adapted for receiving a user-interactive selection of a particular carrier and a particular delivery service offered by the particular carrier, such that said receiving the user-interactive selection causes a generation of a shipping label for shipping the particular parcel according to the parcel shipping specifications using the particular delivery service offered by the particular carrier for said corresponding shipping charge.

2. (Previously Presented) The server-based shipping management computer system of Claim 1, said server-based shipping management computer system further programmed to:

recognize as a user request for an electronic mail delivery notification service by

a carrier system for the particular parcel, a user input by the user of a selection of an electronic mail delivery notification indicator.

3. (Previously Presented) The server-based shipping management computer system of Claim 2, said server-based shipping management computer system further programmed to:

store in a database, a record corresponding to the particular user and to the particular parcel, said record comprising information about the request for electronic mail delivery notification.

4. (Previously Presented) The server-based shipping management computer system of Claim 3, said server-based shipping management computer system further programmed to:

for each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers that would provide electronic mail delivery notification for shipping the particular parcel according to the request, for each respective service of a plurality of services offered by the respective carrier, calculate a respective service charge for delivering the respective particular parcel via the respective service, wherein each said respective service charge is calculated according to at least one electronic mail delivery notification rule for the respective service offered by the respective carrier, wherein said corresponding shipping charge includes the respective service charge; and

generate said simultaneous interactive graphic identification as a single display screen displaying all of the corresponding shipping charges that each includes the respective service charges for display to the display device configured for communication with the particular user client computer device of the user.

5. (Previously Presented) The server-based shipping management computer system of Claim 3, said server-based shipping management computer system further programmed to:

generate said simultaneous interactive graphic identification as a single-screen online display, to the display device configured for communication with the particular user client computer device of the user, of a plurality of respective service charges associated with shipping the particular parcel, wherein each respective service charge of the plurality of respective service charges is calculated according to a respective set of electronic mail delivery notification rules for the respective delivery service offered by the respective carrier and according to a respective set of service-specific rules of the respective delivery service for shipping said particular parcel.

6. (Previously Presented) The server-based shipping management computer system of Claim 3, said server-based shipping management computer system further programmed to:

generate said simultaneous interactive graphic identification as a single-screen online display to the display device configured for communication with the particular user client computer device of the user, of a plurality of shipping rates, wherein each shipping rate of the plurality of shipping rates corresponds to a respective delivery service offered by a particular carrier of the plurality of carriers that would provide electronic mail delivery notification for shipping the particular parcel according to the request, wherein each shipping rate of the plurality of shipping rates includes an electronic mail delivery notification service charge associated with the respective delivery service shipping the particular parcel according to a set of electronic mail delivery notification rules for the respective delivery service.

Claims 7-27 (Cancelled).

28. (Previously Presented) A server-based shipping management computer system, said server-based shipping management computer system comprising at least one computer device, wherein said server-based shipping management computer system is programmed to:

receive from a particular user client computer devices of a plurality of user client

computer devices, a request input by a user for a verbal delivery notification service by a carrier for shipping a particular parcel and an input by the user of parcel specifications for the particular parcel;

for each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers, determine whether the respective carrier would provide verbal delivery notification for shipping the particular parcel according to the request; and

for each respective carrier of the plurality of carriers that would provide verbal delivery notification for shipping the particular parcel according to the request, display to a display device configured for communication with the particular user client computer device of the user, as to the particular parcel, a simultaneous interactive graphic identification of a corresponding shipping charge for each delivery service offered by the respective carrier to ship the particular parcel according to the parcel shipping specifications, said simultaneous interactive graphic identification formatted for display on a single display page, said simultaneous interactive graphic identification adapted for receiving a user-interactive selection of a particular carrier and a particular delivery service offered by the particular carrier, such that said receiving the user-interactive selection causes a generation of a shipping label for shipping the particular parcel according to the parcel shipping specifications using the particular delivery service offered by the particular carrier for said corresponding shipping charge.

29. (Previously Presented) The server-based shipping management computer system of Claim 28, said server-based shipping management computer system further programmed to:

recognize as a user request for a verbal notification service by a carrier for the particular parcel, a user input by the user of a selection of a verbal delivery notification indicator.

30. (Previously Presented) The server-based shipping management computer system of Claim 29, said server-based shipping management computer system further programmed to:

store in a database, a record corresponding to the particular user and to the particular parcel, said record comprising information about the request for verbal delivery notification.

31. (Previously Presented) The server-based shipping management computer system of Claim 30, said server-based shipping management computer system further programmed to:

for each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers that would provide verbal delivery notification for shipping the particular parcel according to the request, for each respective service of a plurality of services offered by the respective carrier, calculate a respective service charge for delivering the respective particular parcel via the respective service, wherein each said respective service charge is calculated according to at least one verbal delivery notification rule for the respective service offered by the respective carrier, wherein said corresponding shipping charge includes the respective service charge; and

generate said simultaneous interactive graphic identification as a single display screen displaying all of the corresponding shipping charges that each includes the respective service charges for display to the display device configured for communication with the particular user client computer device of the user.

32. (Previously Presented) The server-based shipping management computer system of Claim 30, said server-based shipping management computer system further programmed to:

generate said simultaneous interactive graphic identification as a single-screen online display, to the display device configured for communication with the particular user client computer device of the user, of a plurality of respective service charges associated with shipping the particular parcel, wherein each respective service charge of the plurality of respective service charges is calculated according to a respective set of verbal delivery notification rules for the respective delivery service offered by the

respective carrier and according to a respective set of service-specific rules of the respective delivery service for shipping said particular parcel.

33. (Previously Presented) The server-based shipping management computer system of Claim 30, said server-based shipping management computer system further programmed to:

generate said simultaneous interactive graphic identification as a single-screen online display, to the display device configured for communication with the particular user client computer device of the user, of a plurality of shipping rates, wherein each shipping rate of the plurality of shipping rates corresponds to a respective delivery service offered by a particular carrier of the plurality of carriers that would provide verbal delivery notification for shipping the particular parcel according to the request, wherein each shipping rate of the plurality of shipping rates includes a verbal delivery notification service charge associated with the respective delivery service shipping the particular parcel according to a set of verbal delivery notification rules for the respective delivery service.

Claims 34 - 48 (Cancelled).

49. (Previously Presented) A server-based shipping management computer system, said server-based shipping management computer system comprising at least one server computer device, wherein said server-based shipping management computer system is programmed to:

receive from a particular user client computer device of a plurality of user client computer devices, a request input by a user for a plurality of delivery notification service options for shipping a particular parcel and an input by the user of parcel specifications for the particular parcel;

for each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers, determine whether the respective carrier would provide each of the plurality of delivery notification service options for shipping the particular parcel according to the request; and

for each respective carrier of the plurality of carriers that would provide each of the plurality of delivery notification service options for shipping the particular parcel according to the request, display to a display device configured for communication with the particular user client computer device of the user, as to the particular parcel, a simultaneous interactive graphic identification of corresponding shipping charges for each delivery service offered by the respective carrier to ship the particular parcel according to the parcel shipping specifications, said simultaneous interactive graphic identification formatted for display on a single display screen, said simultaneous interactive graphic identification adapted for receiving a user-interactive selection of a particular shipping charge as a selection of a particular carrier and a particular delivery service offered by the particular carrier, such that said receiving the user-interactive selection causes a generation of a shipping label for shipping the particular parcel according to the parcel shipping specifications using the particular delivery service offered by the particular carrier for said corresponding shipping charge.

50. (Previously Presented) A server-based shipping management computer system, said server-based shipping management computer system comprising at least one server computer device, wherein said server-based shipping management computer system is programmed to:

receive from an at least one respective user of a plurality of users, a respective request for an at least one delivery notification service option of a plurality of delivery notification service options for shipping a respective particular parcel;

for each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers, for each respective delivery notification service option of the at least one delivery notification service options, determine whether the respective carrier would provide the respective delivery notification service option for shipping the particular parcel according to the request;

calculate a service-specific, carrier-specific delivery notification service charge by each delivery service offered by each respective carrier of the plurality of carriers for each respective delivery notification service option requested by the respective user that each delivery service offered by each respective carrier would support for delivery of the

respective particular parcel; and

display to a display device configured for communication with a user client computer device associated with the at least one respective user, a simultaneous interactive graphic identification of each service-specific, carrier-specific delivery notification service charge, said simultaneous interactive graphic identification formatted for display on a single display screen.

51. (Previously Presented) A shipping management computer system, said computer system comprising at least one computer device, wherein said shipping management computer system is programmed to:

simultaneously identify in a single-screen interactive graphic display to a respective user of a plurality of users, in response to the respective user's request for at least one delivery notification service option of a plurality of delivery notification service options for shipping a respective parcel, each delivery service offered by each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers that would support each delivery notification service option requested by the respective user for delivery of the respective parcel, said single-screen interactive graphic display comprising, for each delivery service identified, an interactive indicator of the delivery service, the respective carrier, and a corresponding shipping charge.

52. (Previously Presented) A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, wherein said computer system comprises at least one computer device, the method comprising:

displaying to a respective user of a plurality of users, in response to the respective user's request for at least one delivery notification service option of a plurality of delivery notification service options for shipping a respective parcel, a simultaneous identification of each delivery service offered by each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers that would provide the delivery notification service options requested by the respective user for shipping the respective parcel, said simultaneous identification comprising a single-screen interactive graphic display, said single-screen interactive

graphic display comprising, for each delivery service identified, an interactive indicator of the corresponding shipping charge.

Claims 53 - 57 (Cancelled).

58. (Previously Presented) A shipping management computer system that is configured for:

- (A) allowing a user to select, via a notification option selection, an electronic mail delivery notification option to be offered in conjunction with a delivery of a parcel;
- (B) receiving said notification option selection from said user;
- (C) in response to receiving said notification option selection:
 - (1) identifying, from a plurality of carriers, a first carrier that would offer an electronic mail delivery notification service in conjunction with performing said delivery of the parcel, and
 - (2) identifying, from said plurality of carriers, a second carrier that would offer an electronic mail delivery notification service in conjunction with performing said delivery of the parcel;
- (D) for each delivery service offered by said first carrier, using a first set of electronic mail delivery notification rules defined by said first carrier for the respective delivery service to calculate a respective service-specific service charge that said first carrier would charge for providing an electronic mail delivery notification service in conjunction with performing said delivery of the parcel according to the respective delivery service;
- (E) for each delivery service offered by said second carrier, using a second set of electronic mail delivery notification rules defined by said second carrier for the respective delivery service to calculate a respective service-specific service charge that said second carrier would charge for providing an electronic mail delivery notification service in conjunction with performing said delivery of the parcel according to the respective delivery service; and

- (F) simultaneously displaying on a single display screen associated with said user:
- (1) a first interactive display of a first respective service-specific shipping charge that said first carrier would charge in conjunction with performing said delivery of the parcel according to a first respective delivery service offered by said first carrier, said first respective service-specific shipping charge calculated to include a first respective service-specific service charge associated with the first respective delivery service providing an electronic mail delivery notification for the delivery of the parcel,
 - (2) a second interactive display of a second respective service-specific shipping charge that said first carrier would charge in conjunction with performing said delivery of the parcel according to a second respective delivery service offered by said first carrier, said second respective service-specific shipping charge calculated to include a second respective service-specific service charge associated with the second respective delivery service providing an electronic mail delivery notification for the delivery of the parcel,
 - (3) a third interactive display of a third respective service-specific shipping charge that said second carrier would charge in conjunction with performing said delivery of the parcel according to a third respective delivery service offered by the second carrier, said third respective service-specific shipping charge calculated to include a third respective service-specific service charge associated with the third respective delivery service providing an electronic mail delivery notification for the delivery of the parcel, and
 - (4) a fourth interactive display of a fourth respective service-specific shipping charge that said second carrier would charge in conjunction with performing said delivery of the parcel according to a fourth respective delivery service offered by said second carrier, said fourth respective service-specific shipping charge calculated to include a fourth respective service-specific service charge associated with the fourth respective delivery service providing an electronic mail delivery notification for the delivery of the parcel.

Claims 59-65 (Cancelled).

[[59]]66. (Currently Amended) The server-based shipping management computer system of Claim 1, wherein said simultaneous interactive graphic identification comprises an indication of a respective delivery date and a respective delivery time corresponding to each shipping charge displayed as part of the simultaneous interactive graphic identification.

[[60]]67. (Currently Amended) The server-based shipping management computer system of Claim 28, wherein each said corresponding shipping charge is arranged in said simultaneous interactive graphic identification according to an indication of a respective delivery date and a respective delivery time.

[[61]]68. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 52, wherein each said interactive indicator of the corresponding shipping charge is associated with a corresponding indication of an estimated delivery date and an estimated delivery time.

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: It appears the prior art of record fails to anticipate or render obvious, inter alia, interactive graphic displays providing simultaneous interactive graphic identification displayable on a single display screen, said simultaneous interactive graphic identification adapted for receiving a user-interactive selection of a particular carrier and a particular delivery service offered by the particular carrier, such that said receiving the user-interactive selection causes a generation of a shipping label for shipping the particular parcel according to the parcel shipping specifications using the particular delivery service offered by the particular carrier for said corresponding shipping charge.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL THOMPSON whose telephone number is (571)270-3605. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 8am-5:30 except Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jamisue Plucinski can be reached on (571) 272-6811. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael M Thompson/
Examiner, Art Unit 3629

/Jamisue A Plucinski/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3629